

there are also but very few species of birds. If we descend from these sterile plains into the barrancos, we directly find a richer and more luxuriant vegetation.

“The vegetation of the heights, which break the uniformity of the table land, is also very poor in species, but always richer in the gorges than on the declivities. Together with others, amongst the blocks of syenite, we remarked a *Pitcairnia* with red flowers, the *Cereus flagelliformis*, the *Pentstemon fruticosum*, a magnificent new gesneriaceous plant with a unilateral raceme, and having a purple corolla from two to three inches long; two Agaves, two beautiful new *Stachys*, the *Fuchsia arborea*, and other kinds.”

M. Liebmann has subsequently made an excursion to the famous Peak of Orizaba, the height of which is known to be nearly 17,000 feet. He remained fourteen days upon the mountain, in a place called the *Vacuqueria del Jacal*, which is nearly 10,000 feet above the sea. We shall hereafter give an account of this interesting part of his journey.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Narrative of a Voyage round the World. By Capt. Sir E. Belcher, R.N., &c. 2 vols. 1843, London.

To notice the contents of the larger portion of this highly interesting work does not fall within the objects of these ‘Annals,’ but an article appended to the second volume does quite accord with them. The paper to which we refer is of very high interest to the student of botanical geography, and is entitled “The Regions of Vegetation, being an Analysis of the Distribution of Vegetable Forms over the surface of the Globe, in connexion with Climate and Physical Agents,” by Richard Brinsley Hinds, Esq., Surgeon, R.N. The author divides the world into 48 regions of vegetation, of which 10 belong to North America, 7 to South America, 7 to Australia, 7 to Africa, 10 to Asia, 6 to Europe, and 1 is Oceanic. Each of these is considered under five heads: 1. as to its *Extent*; 2. its *Physical Characters*, under which are included accounts of its plains, mountain ranges, rivers, geology and soil; 3. *Climate*; 4. *Flora*; 5. *Relations* with the other regions.

Our space will not allow of going into detail or quoting any portion of this elaborate dissertation, which extends to 136 pages, but we cannot recommend it too strongly to our readers, and must at the same time express our sorrow that it is only to be had as forming a part of so large a work.

Eliæ Fries Novitiarum Floræ Suecicæ Mantissa tertia. 8vo. Lund and Upsal, 1842.

We have recently, through the kindness of its distinguished author, received this third Mantissa to the well-known ‘*Novitiæ Floræ Suecicæ*’ of Fries. It contains 204 pages, and is accompanied by a ge-

neral index and title, so as to form the three Mantissæ into a volume. It is totally impossible for us to give any idea of the valuable contents of this book: to those who are already acquainted with its author's other works, it is quite unnecessary to say anything in its praise; and to such as are not, we have only to recommend that they should form an acquaintance with them immediately.

A Report on the Progress made in the Investigation of the Flora of Hertfordshire, with a Catalogue of Species known or reported to have been found. By the Rev. R. H. Webb, M.A., of Essendon, and the Rev. W. H. Coleman, M.A., of Christ's Hospital, Hertford.

We notice this tract in order to call the attention of such botanists as may have any acquaintance with the plants of Hertfordshire to the Flora which is in preparation, in the hope that they may be induced to assist the authors in their undertaking. This list of 885 species which have been noticed in that county is not published, but will be given to all who desire to possess it on the receipt of a "postage stamp for the purpose" by the authors. We cannot too strongly recommend this plan of previously circulating a list (the example of which was, we believe, first set by Dr. Bromfield, who is preparing a Flora of the Isle of Wight), to all who may have local floras in preparation.

Spicilegium Floræ Rumelicæ et Bithynicæ. Auctore A. Grisebach. Fasc. 1. Brunswick, 1843. 8vo.

This is the first part of a work intended to include all the plants that have been found in the provinces of Bosnia, Servia, Bulgaria, Albania, Macedonia and Thracia, and is the result of the examination of specimens collected by Grisebach, Friedrichsthal, Frivaldzki and Pestalozza, and the descriptions of Buxbaum, Forskäl, Sibthorp, Sestini and others. Such a work was much wanted, and the name of its author ensures its excellence.

Flora Dalmatica, sive Enumeratio Stirpium vascularium quas hactenus in Dalmatia lectas et sibi observatas descripsit, digessit, rarorumque iconibus illustravit Rob. de Visiani. Vol. i. 4to. Leipsic, 1842.

It had long been hoped that the distinguished author of this work would favour botanists with a flora of his native and almost unknown country. Its situation on the eastern shore of the Gulf of Venice, and its very peculiar structure, consisting of a narrow strip of territory formed of islands, deep inlets of the sea, and lofty mountains, render any list of its native plants greatly interesting, but a complete flora from the hands of Dr. Visiani has peculiarly strong claims to attention.

Sertum Plantarum, or Drawings and Descriptions of Rare or Undescribed Plants from the Author's Herbarium. By H. B. Fielding, F.L.S. and R.G.S., assisted by G. Gardner, F.L.S. Part I. 8vo. London, 1843.

This is the first part of a work on the same plan, and similarly executed, with Hooker's 'Icones Plantarum,' and we cannot but wish

it all success. We consider that the example set by Sir W. J. Hooker is highly deserving of imitation, as, although none can more admire splendid botanical plates, still we feel that cheap but correct working drawings, such as are supplied by this work and the 'Icones Plantarum,' are of far greater real use to botanists, many of whom are precluded by their price from becoming possessors of more beautiful but not more accurate works.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.

Dec. 18, 1843.—Dr. Abercrombie in the Chair.

The only communication of the evening bearing on natural history was a paper by Professor Traill "On the Luminousness of the Sea, and on some of the Animals which appear to produce it."

The author stated that this phenomenon seems scarcely to be noticed in the writings of Aristotle or of Pliny which have reached us, though Pliny was familiar with the light emitted by certain shell-fish, and by the *Sea Lung* or Medusa.

Mr. Boyle gives an account, from the journal of a ship-master, of the luminousness of the sea; and it is particularly detailed, from personal observation, in the Indian Voyage of Father Bourzes in 1704.

The first philosophers who ascribed it to light emitted by living animals would seem to be the Abbé Nollet, Professor Vianelli, and Dr. Gressellini of Venice, about the middle of the last century. In Cook's first voyage, the luminous properties of several marine animals are well described by Banks and Solander; and in his second voyage by Forster. Spallanzani made some good experiments on the phosphorescence of a Medusa in the Straits of Messina.

Since that period the catalogue of Noctilucous animals has been greatly enlarged, especially by Perou and LeSueur, the naturalists to the French 'Voyages des Découvertes aux Terres Australes.' A good paper on the Luminousness of the Sea, by Mr. Macartney, appeared in the 'London Phil. Trans.' for 1810, in which the phenomenon is ascribed entirely to living animals; an opinion now generally embraced by naturalists.

The author then detailed his own experiments and observations, made from early life, in different parts of the European Atlantic from lat. 62° to 36° N., chiefly around the shores of Britain, all which confirmed this opinion.

He detected in 1814 several of the same noctilucous animals in the waters of the Bay of Biscay as in our own seas, especially the *Noctiluca miliaris*, *Orithya minima*, and a very minute Crustacean, seemingly a *Zoë*.

Besides these, the *Beroë fulgens* of Macartney, and several other Medusaria, he found two very remarkable animals in the luminous waters of the seas around the Western Isles of Scotland; one an *Æquorea*, most splendidly phosphorescent, which seems to be *Æquo-*